REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 are amended. The claim amendments introduce no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-22 and 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. JP-A-09-197196 to Eguchi et al. (hereinafter "Eguchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,773,169 to Ebeling et al. (hereinafter "Ebeling"). The Office Action, in paragraph 23, rejects claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eguchi in view Ebeling as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,707,684 to Hayes et al. (hereinafter "Hayes"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Eguchi states that the problem to be solved is "to simply adjust an optical axis with high precision" (Abstract). With reference to Fig. 1 of Eguchi, the optical fiber and the optical element are very carefully aligned in the connecting part, and the connecting part is applied therebetween and stretched in order to attempt to ensure that the precise alignment of all three components is maintained throughout the fabrication process.

Ebeling teaches a method for coupling a surface-oriented opto-electronic element with an optical fiber, and an opto-electronic element for carrying out such a method (col. 1, lines 11-14). Ebeling states that the coupling between an opto-electronic element or chip in an optical fiber, particularly, a mono mode fiber, represents a complex problem because the two components must be aligned relative to one another to achieve a high coupling performance with high efficiency (col. 1, lines 15-19). The method according to Ebeling involves moving a butt of an optical fiber and a rotationally symmetric protruding structure of an opto-electronic

element, wetted with a transparent adhesive, towards one another, where once the adhesive between the structures is compressed, "substantially frictionless movement" perpendicular to the rotational axis of the opto-electronic element is allowed to occur (col. 2, lines 1-13). Ebeling teaches that such a figuration makes possible an automatic positioning of the two coupling elements relative to one another by virtue of the surface tension and capillary effect of the adhesive (col. 2, lines 13-17).

As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to apply the teachings of either Eguchi or Ebeling in attempting to fashion a connection between an optical element and an optical fiber "without requiring accurate alignment between the optical element and the optical fiber," as is positively recited in each of the independent claims.

Independent claim 1, and in like manner claims 3, 18 and 20, recites, among other features, the connecting part is composed of a material and has a structure usable to secure optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without requiring accurate alignment between the optical element and the optical fiber. Applicant respectfully submits that the combinations of all of the features recited in at least independent claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 are neither disclosed, nor would they have been suggested, by any combination of the applied references.

For at least the above reason, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 3, 18 and 20 are patentable over any combination of the applied prior art references. Additionally, claims 2, 4-6, 9-11, 13-17, 19 and 21-30 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by any combination of the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on independent claims 1, 3, 18 and 20, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over any combination of the applied references, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13-30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/scg

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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